

PITTSFIELD, ILL.

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

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# Illinois

## Illinois Towns

### Pittsfield

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



WELCOME

To

PITTSFIELD

"By thy rivers gently flowing,  
Illinois, Illinois . . ."

(From the official State Song)







WELCOME

To

PITTSFIELD

*"By thy rivers gently flowing,  
Illinois, Illinois . . ."*

(From the official State Song)



**SHAKE THE DUST** from your shoes, friend, and stay a while. Welcome to Pittsfield, where faces have names, where the good life abounds, where business bustles. Pittsfield is located on U.S. 36 and 54, two of the most popular highways of America, between two great rivers, the Mississippi and the Illinois. In 1960 the city's population was 4,100 and it has grown some since then. The attractions of a small town are combined with proximity to larger cities: Quincy, 45 miles; Jacksonville, 35; Springfield and the state capital, 75; St. Louis, 100.



**PITTSFIELD IS AN ENTERPRISING** business town with retail sales per capita among the highest in the state. Its two banks (opposite page) are among the most imposing to be found anywhere in Illinois. Both were virtually rebuilt in 1965 and '66 in extensive remodeling projects. The First National recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. The Farmers State is the largest bank in Pike county. The two banks' combined resources total nearly \$20 million. Modern stores surround the city square and other retail businesses are located at the west and east edges of town.





**YOU'LL FIND PITTSFIELD** a city with a colorful past and a charming present. It was established in 1833, named after Pittsfield, Mass. Historic homes are numerous. It was the home of President Lincoln's two private secretaries and chief biographers, John Hay and John George Nicolay. In the home at the left Nicolay lived from 1848-56. He became publisher of the Pike County Free Press. Hay later became U.S. Secretary of State and gained fame as the author of the "Pike County Ballads." Lincoln himself walked the streets of Pittsfield, spoke here, and hung his hat in several Pittsfield homes.





**ILLINI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL** offers 100 beds, a special wing for the chronically ill, and a staff of competent physicians and surgeons. The hospital is continually improving and expanding its services and facilities. Nearing completion at the east edge of Pittsfield is a 74-bed nursing home.



**NORTH OF TOWN** is Pine Lakes, the community's fastest growing recreational area with a 50-acre lake and two 1-acre lakes, camping accommodations, snack bar, bait and tackle shop, sand beach with safeguarded swimming, a driving range, and miniature golf. The large lake is stocked with bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish.



**PITTSFIELD'S NEW CITY LAKE** is a combination municipal water supply and recreational area. The city lake area includes 350 acres of water and 450 acres of surrounding scenic ground. It offers boating and fishing, camping sites, and Zimmerman Park with its picnicking and recreational facilities.



**THE COMMUNITY** is proud of a group of local artists who have won regional acclaim for their oil and water color paintings. The community also has an adult dramatic group and a community band. Civic, professional, and fraternal groups are numerous. There is an active county historical society and a fine public library.



**COUNTY SEAT OF PIKE COUNTY,** Pittsfield boasts an unusual 8-sided court house that has been photographed by thousands of interested travelers. The city has three motels, one hotel, 10 restaurants, and 18 service stations. Car dealers sell and service every major American automobile.



**AGRICULTURE IS BASIC** to the city's economy. The county is second in Illinois in hog production and third in number of cattle on farms. Farm and home extension services are centered in Pittsfield, serving the entire county. Corn and soybeans are major crops of the surrounding farm land.



**KING PARK** is a city park with supervised swimming pool, two tennis courts, an attractive lagoon, and picnic facilities. Outside town, Old Orchard Country Club offers a private 9-hole golf course and club house. There are two bowling alleys in town and a movie theatre.



**INDUSTRY IS WELCOME** in Pittsfield and there's a 132-acre site available, ready and waiting for occupancy. The site is owned, administered, and maintained by a non-profit corporation, Greater Pike Industrial Corporation. It is located a mile north of Pittsfield on a paved highway and served by the Norfolk and Western Railway. Natural gas and city water are available. Industry does well in Pittsfield. A Brown Shoe factory has been in continuous operation here the past 32 years. Adequate labor is available. For further information of value to interested industries, contact the Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce, phone 285-2971.



# historic PITTSFIELD illinois



**Carl Sandburg calls Pittsfield "Extraordinary"**

- ★ Home of Lincoln's two private secretaries and biographers.
- ★ Scene of major Lincoln speech during Lincoln-Douglas series in 1858.
- ★ Where famous portrait of Lincoln was made.
- ★ Where Lincoln often visited while "riding circuit."
- ★ Home of Oliver Barrett, greatest of Lincoln Collectors.



# Old Pike

## A WIDE PLACE in the ROAD of American History . . .

The people of Pike regard their county with a genuine affection, partly because of its beautiful hills and streams and quiet, friendly cities, and partly because of the



Taken from an ambrotype by Calvin Jackson in Pittsfield Oct. 1, 1858, six days before the Lincoln-Douglas debate in Galesburg.

county's colorful past. One of the oldest of Illinois counties, it once extended over one-third of the state, including Fort Dearborn on Lake Michigan. Prior to the Civil War it grew to a position of statewide prominence and furnished many state leaders. Some of America's greatest men passed this way and were influenced by this old county and its blend of New England and Southern cultures . . .

John Hay and John George Nicolay, Lincoln's personal secretaries and biographers, were educated in Pittsfield and Nicolay edited a newspaper there for eight years; one of the first editorials to recommend Lincoln for the presidency appeared in the Pike County Free Press . . . A trial involving only \$50 once was argued in Pittsfield by eight lawyers, six of whom went on to become United States Senators from Illinois, California and Oregon. One of them was Stephen A. Douglas . . . John Hay (who as Secretary of State in the 1890's established the "Open Door" policy in China) wrote the Pike County Ballads (see cover) while attending school and working on a newspaper in Pittsfield and later in 1871 while he was a columnist for the New York Tribune . . . Governor Ferris of Michigan was superinten-



This famous portrait of Lincoln, Nicolay (left) and Hay is now in Brown University collection.

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The home of Oliver Barrett and early home of John Hay.



The Z. N. Garbutt home, where John Nicolay lived.



The John Shastid home, where Lincoln often visited.

**historic**  
**PITTSFIELD**  
**illinois**



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1. **ROSS HOME:** Mile east of square, built 1847, destroyed by fire. Col. Ross provided the money for the town lots when Pittsfield was established in 1835. A. Lincoln stayed here overnight when he answered Douglas in debate in 1858.



2. **JOHN NICOLAY** lived here (1848-56) in the Z. N. Garbutt home. He worked as printer's devil in Old Free Press office. Nicolay later became President Lincoln's aide and personal secretary; together with John Hay wrote volumes about Lincoln and their association with him.

**3. OLD HIGH SCHOOL, built 1863.**



**4. SHASTID HOME:** Built 1836 by Jon Greene Shastid, neighbor to A. Lincoln in New Salem (now State Park) near Springfield. Here Lincoln visited Shastid family many times, and here he ate pigeon potpie and liked it so well there was none left for the 'second table' when the Shastid children were allowed to eat. It was Shastid who introduced Lincoln and Nicolay.



**5. HECK'S BAKERY:** Where Lincoln enjoyed cider and gingerbread with John Nicolay Oct. 1, 1858 during Lincoln-Douglas campaign. Also site of 1st courthouse in Pittsfield (1833-38).





6. **OLDEST HOUSE** in Pittsfield still standing on original foundation, built 1835 by Lincoln's close friend, Col. Wm. Ross.

7. **PUBLIC LIBRARY** contains many books and some antique items donated by Oliver Barrett, greatest collector of Lincolniana, and former resident of Pittsfield.



8. **OLD HODGEN HOME:** Where Lincoln visited his family's old Hodgenville, Ky. neighbors on a day in 1840. Hodgen became nationally known in the medical profession. See Hodgen marker on courthouse lawn.

**9. CAMPBELL HOME:** Built in 1849. Home of one of Pittsfield's first doctors. He was associated with Dr. Hodgen.



**10. FORMER SCANLAND HOME:** Where Lincoln was a dinner guest and his hostess, Susan Scanland, complained because he was late.



**11. OLIVER BARRETT'S boyhood home.** Barrett became our country's greatest collector of Lincolniana. Also former home of John Hay who lived here with his uncle, Milton Hay.



**12. PIKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE.**

Lincoln spoke from a platform on lawn here during 1858 campaign. Nicolay printed the speech in the Free Press.

**13. SITE OF OLD GILMER HOME**

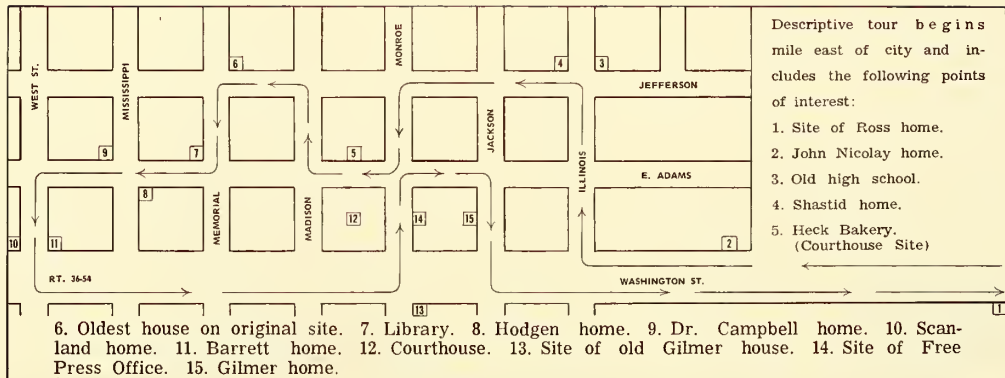
where Lincoln visited. House moved to 117 North Jackson.



**14. SITE OF FREE PRESS** office

where John Nicolay wrote editorial Feb. 9, 1860 which was first to suggest Lincoln for President. Here John Hay drafted his famous Pike County Ballads.

Research for Pamphlet by Grace Matteson and Warren Winston; under auspices of Paul Findley; printed by Pike Press, Inc. Sponsored by First National and Farmers State Banks of Pittsfield.





15. **FORMER DANIEL GILMER** home, moved from original location on SE corner of Square. Lincoln was dinner guest of the Gilmers Oct. 1, 1858, during the Lincoln-Douglas campaign.



### **PITTSFIELD'S LINCOLN**

Taken from an ambrotype by Calvin Jackson in Pittsfield Oct. 1, 1858 six days before the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Galesburg. Photograph is from a portrait in the collection of Frederick Held Meserve in New York City.



The Mississippi Riverboat at East Hannibal



**JIM BLUDSO**  
Of the Prairie Belle  
Well, no I can't tell whar he lives,  
Because he don't live, you see,  
Leastways he's got out of the habit  
Of livin' like you and me  
Whar have you been for the last three years,  
That you haven't heard folks tell,  
How Jimmy Bludso passed in his checks  
The night of the Prairie Belle?

He weren't no saint—them engineers  
Is all pretty much alike—  
One wife in Natchez-Under-The-Hill,  
And another one here, in Pike;  
A keerkless man in his talk was Jim,  
And an awkward hand in a row,  
But he never flunked, and he never lied—  
I reckon he never knowed how.

And this was all the religion he had—  
To treat his engine well,  
Never be passed on the river  
To mind the pilot's bell;  
And if ever the Prairie Belle took fire—  
A thousand times he swore,  
He'd hold her nozzle again the bank  
Till the last soul got ashore.

All boats has their day on the Mississippi,  
And her day come at last—  
The Movastar was a better boat,  
But the Belle she wouldn't be passed.  
And as she came tearin' along the night—  
The oldest craft on the line—  
With a nigger aquat on her safety valve,  
And her furnace crammed room and pine

The fire burst out as she  
cleard the bar,  
And hurt a hole in the  
night,  
And quick as a flash she  
turned, and made  
For that willer bank on  
the right.  
There was runnin' and  
currin', But Jim yelled out,  
Over all that infernal  
roar,  
Till hold her nozzle agin  
the bank,  
Till the last galoot's  
ashore.

Through the hot black  
breath of the hurmin' boat,  
Jim Bludso's voice was  
heard,  
And they all had trust in  
his cussedness,  
And knowed he would  
keep his word.  
And, sure's you're born,  
they all got off.  
Afore the smokestacks  
fell—  
And Bludso's ghost went  
up alone  
In the smoke of the  
Prairie Belle.

He weren't no saint—but at judgment  
I'd run my chance with Jim,  
Longside of some pious gentlemen  
That wouldn't shook hands with him.  
He seen his duty, a dead-sure thing—  
And went for it thar and then;  
And Christ aint a going to be too hard  
On a man that died for men.

Pilot Bluff, high-  
est point on Illi-  
nois River.



Introducing

**PIKE  
COUNTY**

**Illinois**



# Old Pike

## A WIDE PLACE in the ROAD of American History . . .

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county's colorful past. One of the oldest of Illinois counties, it once extended over one-third of the state, including Fort Dearborn on Lake Michigan. Prior to the Civil War it grew to a position of statewide prominence and furnished many state leaders. Some of America's greatest men passed this way and were influenced by this old county and its blend of New England and Southern cultures . . .

John Hay and John George Nicolay, Lincoln's personal secretaries and biographers, were educated in Pittsfield and Nicolay edited a newspaper there for eight years; one of the first editorials to recommend Lincoln for the presidency appeared in the Pike County Free Press . . . A trial involving only \$50 once was argued in Pittsfield by eight lawyers, six of whom went on to become United States Senators from Illinois, California and Oregon. One of them was Stephen A. Douglas . . . John Hay (who as Secretary of State in the 1890's established the "Open Door" policy in China) wrote the Pike County Ballads (see cover) while attending school and working on a newspaper in Pittsfield and later in 1871 while he was a columnist for the New York Tribune . . . Governor Ferris of Michigan was superintendent



This famous portrait of Lincoln, Nicolay (left) and Hay is now in Brown University collection.

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The home of Oliver Barrett and early home of John Hay.



The Z. N. Garbutt home, where John Nicolay lived.



The John Shastid home, where Lincoln often visited.

A Family Recreationland . . .

# 65 Miles of Two Great Rivers

Pike County is bordered by both the Illinois and Mississippi rivers and has a combined total of nearly 65 miles of shoreline on the two rivers. Among the most popular sports in the county are water skiing, duck hunting and fishing. The countryside is dotted with more than 1400 lakes and ponds, in addition to numerous rivers, streams and sloughs. A total of more than 5600 acres of water is available in the county.

Most common fish are large mouth bass, blue gill, catfish, sunfish and carp, which abound in both the lakes and streams. Sauger, called jack salmon locally, also abound in the Mississippi river. Largest body of water in the county is 694-acre Lake Pittsfield.

Most common game animals in the county are rabbits, quail, ducks, geese, squirrels, raccoon, foxes and deer. It is one of several counties in Illinois with deer hunting season and attracts hunters from a 300-mile radius to its duck hunting areas.



Fishing at Pine Lakes

## 5600 Acres of Lakes and Ponds . . .

Pine Lakes Fishing and Camping Resort was started in 1963 on the former Pittsfield municipal lake and already has become a thriving recreational center for Western Illinois. It now includes three lakes, snack bar, bait and tackle shop, more than 100 tent and trailer sites, most with city water and electricity, public toilets, barbecue grills and picnic tables, sand swimming beach with life-guards, playground, rental rowboats and paddleboats, and scenic drives around the lake. It is located one mile north of U.S. 36-54 near the Pittsfield city limits.



Swimming at Pine Lakes





Lake Pittsfield

## A Land of Scenic Beauty . . .

In South Pike and adjoining Calhoun county is some of the most ruggedly picturesque terrain in Illinois, Nebo, less than 10 miles from either river, is located near the confluence of Bay and Spring Creeks and is virtually surrounded by high bluffs . . . Within a 10-mile radius of Nebo are located the Big Spring, Pleasant Valley and Calhoun saddle clubs and the Pike County Fair in nearby Pleasant Hill is known throughout Illinois for its horse-shows . . . Cal Rodgers threaded his way through the South Pike hills on his first transcontinental airplane flight in 1911 and landed in Nebo . . . Pearl, located in Hill Creek valley where it enters the Illinois River, is a favorite haunt of artists, Indian relic collectors and cave explorers . . . Among many caves in the area are several large limestone mines; Twin Culverts, which includes a small underground lake; and Lost Creek, through which a stream runs underground for almost a mile . . . The Illinois Valley in this area is the site of one of the heaviest concentrations of the Mound Builder Indian civilization . . . A short distance north of Pearl is Pilot Bluff, highest elevation along the Illinois River and the site of some of the Montezuma Indian mounds.

## Two of Illinois' Leading County Fairs . . .

Pike County has two county fairs. The Western Illinois Fair in Griggsville is held each year during July 4th week and features four days of harness racing, a free grandstand with nationally famous entertainment each evening and an outstanding livestock show, in addition to its other attractions . . . The Pike County Fair in Pleasant Hill is held after the state fair each year and features four days of society and western horse shows and a rodeo in addition to outstanding livestock exhibits, a beauty pageant, and nationally known stage entertainment . . . The three-day Pittsfield Free Fall Festival each year features a carnival, beauty pageant, street dances, and a variety of free stage entertainment on the Pittsfield square and courtyard . . . Baylis holds a fall festival each year after Labor Day weekend; Nebo holds an annual homecoming; and Pearl holds an annual three-day picnic.

### Western Illinois Fair



Harness Racing Since 1887

### Pike County Fair



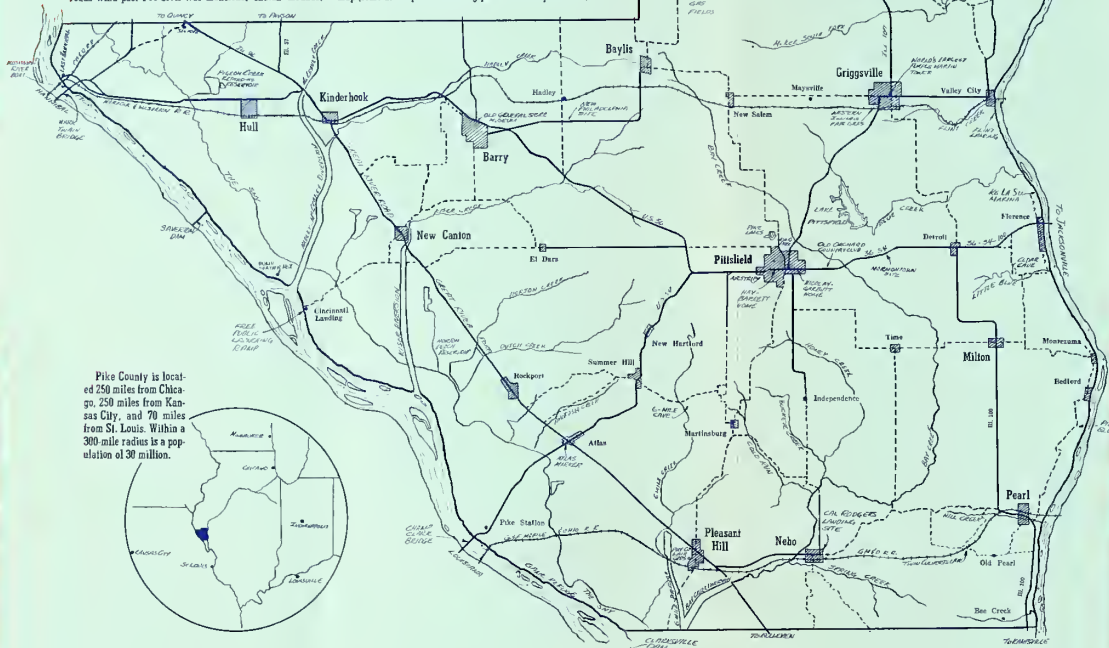
New Horse Show Arena



## Drive Pike County's Scenic Highways

Pike County has nearly 80 miles of high bluffs along its western, eastern and southern boundaries and along Bay Creek, which extends up through the heart of the county, beginning near Baylis, highest elevation in the county. The county's hundreds of miles of scenic highways and country roads wind past Pre-Civil War mansions, Indian mounds,

caves, streams and lakes, as well as modern homes and prosperous farms. Pike County furnishes endless treasures for the artist, camera enthusiast and camper as well as the hunter and fisherman. Explore Pike County's picturesque roads, only a small percentage of which are detailed on this map (some are impassable during periods of rainy weather).



Pike County is located 250 miles from Chicago, 250 miles from Kansas City, and 70 miles from St. Louis. Within a 300-mile radius is a population of 30 million.

## Griggsville

## Purple Martin Capital of The Nation

This community and its home-grown Trio Manufacturing Co. are leading a nationwide resurgence in popularity of the purple martin, a friendly bird which consumes great amounts of harmful insects and now is being encouraged by many metropolitan mosquito abatement districts interested in natural insect control. Griggsville's streets are lined with martin houses. In the center of the city is a 40-foot high martin tower, tallest in the world. . . . Throughout Griggsville are many century old homes built during Pike County's period of greatest prominence. Two consecutive Illinois secretaries of state lived in Griggsville in the Pre-Civil War years and the home of one still stands in good repair. Griggsville also is the home of the Western Illinois Fair.



## Perry

Mrs. William Jennings Bryan grew up in this home in Perry and the Bryan family visited Perry many times. Bryan delivered a warm-up address for his famous "Cross of Gold" speech in a churchyard in Perry. . . . General U. S. Grant's army camped near Perry and he purchased there the horse which he rode during the remaining four years of the war. . . . Perry was settled by members of Daniel Boone's family and originally was named Booneville. . . . A brother-in-law and sister of Daniel Boone also were the first settlers on the site of Milton. . . . Many Pike County families are Boone descendants.

## Barry

An authentic page out of the past, the Old General Store in Barry has remained basically unchanged since its beginning as a store in 1850. A 19th century museum has been added at the rear and still further expansion is planned. Its five rooms are crowded with antiques, relics and nostalgia and the store is rapidly becoming one of the leading tourist attractions in Western Illinois. . . . Also near Barry is the site of New Philadelphia, founded in 1839 by "Free Frank" McWhorter, a slave who had purchased his own freedom and spent the rest of his life ouying freedom for his children and grandchildren. The city thrived for years but declined when the railroad bypassed it in the 1870's. Eventually it disappeared and only a graveyard remains.



## Agriculture . . .

## Pike County's Leading Industry

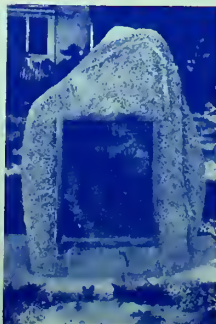
Pike County ranks third among swine producing counties in the nation and also produces much beef and grain. Pillsbury Grain Terminal at Florence is a leading grain exporting center for West Central Illinois and Missouri, averaging 16 million bushels of grain per year for shipment to all parts of the world. More than 300 bargeloads of grain per year move down the Illinois River from this terminal. Major industries in the county are Brown Shoe Co., Bergman Packing Co., Pike County Cheese Co., Clausen Photo-engraving Co., and King Milling Co. in Pittsfield; Trio Manufacturing Co. in Griggsville; Wells-Lamont Corp. in Barry; Panhandle-Eastern Pipeline Co. at Pleasant Hill; and Casswood Industries and Western Illinois Power Cooperative in Pearl. Nelson Fish Market in Pearl is one of leading fish handling centers on the Illinois River. The county also is one of three leading apple producing and packing counties in Illinois with heaviest concentrations in the Griggsville, Barry, Summer Hill and Pearl areas. Natural resources include timber, natural gas in the Baylis area, white clay in the Barry area, limestone and crushed rock in many bluff areas, and geodes and collectors' rocks.

## Tourist Facilities

For your convenience and protection, Pike County offers: hotels in Pittsfield and Griggsville; motels in Detroit, Pittsfield, Barry, Hull and Pike Station; restaurants in nearly every community; 24-hour restaurant and service station facilities in Pittsfield; physicians in Griggsville, Pittsfield, Barry and Pleasant Hill; hospital facilities in Pittsfield; sheriff's officers based in Pittsfield and state and city police based in many of the cities; picnic areas in nearly every community and along major highways; swimming pool and swimming beach in Pittsfield; tennis courts in Pittsfield and Griggsville; bowling lanes in Perry, Pittsfield and Hull; a skating rink in Pittsfield; theaters in Pittsfield and Barry; a drive-in theater at Summer Hill; and an airstrip in Pittsfield. The citizens of Pike hope you enjoy your visit to this county and will return often.



## Atlas . . . Shaped a Nation's Destiny



This crossroads community at the junction of U.S. 54 and the Great River Road (route 96) was the county seat of Pike from 1823-1833, when the county included all land between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers as far as Lake Michigan and the present Wisconsin border. . . . Nicholas Hansen of Atlas, Pike's first representative to the Illinois House, was burned in effigy by an unruly mob in Vandalia in 1822 because he had cast the vote which kept Illinois from becoming a slave state. Slave and free states were divided 12 and 12 at the time and a majority of slave states undoubtedly would have affected the entire course of American history. . . . Carl Sandburg's book, "The Flery Trial," uses the Atlas vicinity for the setting of much of it. . . . A large brick house,

now in disrepair, in Atlas was built by the Ross family in 1822 and may be the oldest still standing in the original Pike County territory.



Published by Pike County Board of Supervisors in cooperation with Illinois Region 3 Tourism Promotion Council. Artwork, design, research, photography and printing by Pike Press, Inc., Pittsfield, Ill. For further information contact: Board of Supervisors, Pittsfield, Ill.

## West Pike A Land of Levees

Spread across the West Pike bottomlands is the Sny Basin flood control project, a massive federal-local project started in 1959 and nearing completion in 1965. It provides flood protection for an agricultural area of 115,000 acres, including 100,000 acres of some of the most productive land in the Mississippi valley. The Sny, a former by-channel of the Mississippi, begins in Adams county, flows through the West Pike area and empties into the Mississippi in Calhoun county. Major tributaries, which collect runoff from 400 square mile of adjacent hill area, including McCraney, Hadley, Kiser, Six Mile and Bay Creeks. Minor tributaries, which collect runoff from 150 square miles of hill area, include Fall, Pigeon, Horton and Dutch Creeks and several smaller creeks.

The \$27,000,000 Sny project consists of three major diversion channels (to divert Hadley and McCraney Creeks,

Kiser Creek, and Six Mile and Bay Creeks, see map); improvement of the Sny channel to collect bottomland runoff; construction of three pumping stations to pump runoff from the district; construction of a closing levee at the downstream end of the area to exclude backwater from the Mississippi; improvement of the main river levee; and several retention structures, the largest being Pigeon Creek reservoir on route 36 near Hull.

Offices of the Sny Island Levee Drainage District are located in New Canton on the Great River Road. Other communities located in the Sny Basin are Hull, Kinderhook, Rockport, Atlas and Pleasant Hill. Travelers on the Great River Road (route 96) can observe the beginnings of the various diversion channels, which begin along route 96 and stretch to the river.



## Looking for Lincoln: Quincy learning by Pittsfield's example

Friday, March 3, 2006

**By Deborah Gertz Husar**

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

PITTSFIELD, Ill. — Pittsfield and Quincy took a first step together Thursday in promoting something they have in common — ties to Abraham Lincoln.

Representatives of the Pittsfield-based Abe Lincoln Project and Quincy's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission met with Looking for Lincoln program director Nicki Stratton about efforts under way in both communities.

The Pike County community already is part of the state's Looking for Lincoln Project highlighting communities with ties to the 16th president. It claims to be the first in Illinois using "talking houses," powered by radio transmitters, for historic interpretation of Lincoln sites.

"You're the prototype," said Chuck Scholz, a former Quincy mayor and chairman of the Quincy commission.

Learning more about what Pittsfield has done "really helps us" and sparks more ideas for Quincy "when we find out what's already accomplished and the resources developed with Looking for Lincoln," Scholz said.

"I use (Pittsfield) as an example all the time," Stratton said. "The reason it worked was a dedicated, focused group of people."

Volunteers in both communities say working together makes sense to draw visitors interested not only in Lincoln but in the area's Mormon sites, New Philadelphia or the Underground Railroad.

"One of the things that makes tourism work is when you create bonds among communities that take visitors from one place to the next," Stratton said. "You have to create a visitor experience."

The Looking for Lincoln program can help communities tell their stories, for example, through storyboards posted at historic sites. Storyboards follow Looking for Lincoln guidelines to deliver a consistent, high quality message to visitors and residents. "It's a wonderful way to tell your own community about your own history," Stratton said.

The storyboards feature text along with photos, drawings or artwork along with a medallion, suitable for rubbings, highlighting one feature of the story. They can cost up to \$6,000, but a sponsoring organization, business or individual can be recognized on the board.

Pittsfield plans a storyboard for the Shastid House, where Lincoln was a frequent visitor, and Quincy is looking at boards for the Lincoln-Douglas debate site in Washington Park and beyond. "Private organizations will probably fund several off the debate site around Quincy, primarily downtown," Scholz said.

Communities also look at promoting historical features tied to Lincoln's era.

It's not like Lincoln kept slaves in his basement as part of the Underground Railroad, Stratton said, but he was aware of it — just as he had to know about the large Mormon influence in the area. "It was an important issue at the time he was living in Springfield. We know it had an impact on him," Stratton said.

Quincy sheltered about 5,000 Mormons escaping persecution in Missouri in 1839. Pike County had five Mormon settlements, including Mormontown east of Pittsfield founded by Joseph Smith's uncle, and was part of the trail followed by church members moving from Kirtland, Ohio, to Missouri.

Visitors to Springfield could be drawn to the variety of historical sites in both Quincy and Pittsfield. "It's mutually beneficial for both communities to work together," said Kathy Zimmerman, president of the Abe Lincoln Project.

**Contact Staff Writer Deborah Gertz Husar at [dhusar@whig.com](mailto:dhusar@whig.com) or**

**(217) 221-3379**

PITTSFIELD, ILL.

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

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